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NEGRO POSTAL CLERK FACES THEFT CHARGE.

C. T. Bennett Accused of Taking
Pearl Necklaces and Facets From
Mail.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 1.—C. T. Bennett of 3028 Bell avenue, a Negro, who has been serving as substitute clerk at the main Post Office, was yesterday bound over to the federal grand jury following a hearing before United States Commissioner Irvine Mitchell on a charge of having stolen Christmas packages from the mails.

According to the Post Office Inspector R. V. Leahy, Bennett when arrested had seven packages concealed under his coat, and many more were found in his room at the Bell avenue address. Among the articles in his possession were an opal ring and a pearl necklace, which he admitted having taken from the mails.

Bennett is a former soldier. He is 23 years old and unmarried. His parents and most of his relatives reside in Texas. He was arrested in the Post Office since December 15.

LIFE OF COLORED MAN VALUED AT \$1 BY JURY.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—The value of a human life was placed at \$1 by a jury in Circuit Division 2, before Justice Siddons.

A verdict for the amount was rendered in favor of P. Dallas Washington, administrator of the estate of Daniel Turner, colored, who died as the result of a fall caused by the breaking of a wooden facing guarding an embankment on Nicholas avenue, in Anacostia.

The administrator sued the District of Columbia for \$10,000 damages and at a previous trial was awarded \$1,000, but the verdict was reversed by the Court of Appeals and a new trial ordered. The new trial jury held the District responsible, but assessed the damage at only \$1, the court instructing them that they should base their verdict only on the earning power of the deceased, who was 70 years old and made only \$6 per week.

FORMER GEORGIA SLAVE SANTA AT SOLDIERS' HOME.

Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 1.—Bill Yopp, former slave, held his annual reunion at the Soldiers' Home here today with the old warriors of the Confederacy, and Bill, as usual, brought along a little gift for each of them.

The aged Negro has been providing the gifts for years, partly with his own money and partly from dimes collected around his home near Macon, where he has become known as "Ten-Cent Bill." Last summer the Georgia Legislature, in making appropriations for 1920, provided a special fund to carry on Bill's work. And as this probably is the last time the old darkey will play Santa Clause at the home, Gov. Dorsey and other state officials arranged to be present.

METRIC SYSTEM EXPLAINED IN ONE MINUTE.

A member of World Trade Club holds the world record for rapid explanation of the metric weight measurements and the way in which they ought to be used. He does this in one minute. An objector who had never looked the matter up declared that the metric system was complex and that it would take a long time to learn it. It was then that the member of the World Trade Club first undertook to explain, in one minute, all that needed to be known of metric units. He did it to the satisfaction of eminent auditors. Here is how he did it:

"Learn only the units dollar, meter, liter, gram;—dollar, the measure of value; meter, the measure of length; liter, measure of bulk; gram, for weight. You know all about the American dollar. The metric unit, meter, liter, gram, are just like dollar, divided decimally and multiplied decimally. If you want to compare metric units with present units, the meter is 10 per cent more than the yard; 500 grams is about 10 per cent more than the pound avoirdupois, the liter is 5 per cent less than the U. S. liquid quart (13 per cent less than the British liquid quart)—that is all 90 per cent need to use the metric standards."

BRYAN PLANS TO RISE ON WILSON'S SON'S FAILURE.

Nebraskan's Emergence Deemed of
Special Significance at This Particular
Time.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—Commotion has been caused in democratic circles, not to mention political interest elsewhere by signs and symptoms that William J. Bryan intends to crowd himself to the front in the affairs of his party as the year of 1920 nears.

Mr. Bryan is not yet an avowed presidential candidate but there is talk that he will in due course become one.

Former Governor Joseph W. Folk of Missouri gave a dinner here recently, attended by a large number of democratic senators and others. Mr. Bryan spoke at length. He was, in fact, the guest of honor.

Mr. Bryan was extolled in the evening's speechmaking the following on the dinner it came out that he counseled the ratification of the peace treaty even if reservations had to be accepted. Outwardly praising the President, he nevertheless made it clear he was not for the "no concession" plan of Mr. Wilson. It seems Mr. Bryan does not believe the democrats stand any show of getting anywhere next year with the treaty as an issue.

Emergence of Mr. Bryan at this particular time is deemed peculiarly significant here. It is taken to mean, among other things, that Mr. Bryan, looking at such matters as the recent elections, the Lane resignation, and much else that might be cited, believes the Wilson administration is heading rapidly for the political rocks. It is evident Mr. Bryan believes the Wilson leadership is losing its grip.

JEWISH DAILY SPEAKS AGAINST LYNCHING.

The following editorial is from "The Jewish Daily Forward" of recent date and is a scathing denunciation. The editorial tends to show that the Hebrews are with us:

The Black Stain Spreads.
Again a massacre on Negroes, and again in a state in the North, where the Negroes' life has always been considered sacred.

In many instances is the tragedy of Omaha more frightful, more murderous than the lynchings which occur in the South. The mob in Omaha acted like a wild band of savages, and they simply could not feel contented with the blood of their victim. After they hanged him, and riddled his body with hundreds of bullets, they dragged him through the streets, as mad dogs pull their prey. And among the wildest of this mob were young maids and women. They not only entered the wild dance, but they took pleasure in the act. And even the following day, when the drunkenness passed, those women related to their friends with pride the active role which they played in that bloody ceremony.

The answer which the civilized white citizen of Omaha gives is the old known: "The Negroes became wild lately, and attacked white women, and therefore, they must be lynched." This same answer was given in Washington, Chicago, and wherever the Negro massacres occurred.

But the true reason is surely the same as the true reasons of massacres in other cities. The massacres are the result of the present economic circumstances and the old injustices against the black people. And for both, the responsibility rests upon the cursed capitalist system which derives its gains by spreading hatred between man and man, and by causing wars for the piece of bread between one group of workers and the other.

The Negroes were fooled into the big manufacturing cities of the North by capitalist agents. They were promised miraculous advantages if they would leave the South and enter the industrial cities of the North, and so, they came.

They risked their lives and their freedom because the governments of the Southern states employed all compulsory rules to keep them back from the South. They came North and sold their health, their sweat and blood to those bosses. They could not find any homes as the whites did not want them as neighbors. The result—they were compelled to confine themselves into "ghettos" and even of those narrow and dirty streets, they were often deprived.

When the "housing problem" could not be solved and the cost of living climbed high, the whites sought the Negro as a victim—the Negro who suffered a thousand times more than he.

The black stain on American society, the stain of murders against Negroes which formerly was cornered in the South, is spreading the country over. The consolation which was formerly given, that Negro massacres were due to special historical reasons, and that they will be lost within time, when the wounds of the Civil War will be healed—that consolation is now being lost: it is disappearing. Those historical reasons

never existed in the North, and still that part of the country now is showing its heroism by race riots and lynchings.

The Negro here became the "goat" of social wrongs. He serves as the sacrifice, like the Jews in Ukraine and Poland; and, therefore, the Jew can so deeply mourn and feel with the Negro in his tragic condition.

One bright star in the Omaha tragedy has enlightened the noble-hearted people of America. That is the heroic holding of the city mayor of Omaha. An elderly man of 60, who defended the victim until the last minute and almost sacrificed his life. He was ready to fall as a martyr to the madness of the mob. He allowed himself to be hanged, but would not surrender to the cry for the Negro's blood.

Such heroes and martyrs for justice are not so very common among the American elected masters. They are more willing to surrender to the mob, and even defend the mob to the face of the world.

For as we know—a mob consists of many voters, and it hardly pays to disagree with a mob of that kind.

BIG CUT IN COST OF LIVING AFTER JAN. 1 FORECAST.

Attorney General Palmer Analyzes
Situation and Predicts Drop in
Food Prices, But Asks for Co-Operation of All Honest Citizens.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Expectation of a decline in retail food prices beginning between January 1 and March 1 was expressed tonight by Attorney General Palmer in a statement summing up the efforts of the government to date in forcing down the cost of living.

"The cost of living, already under control," said the Attorney General, "can be reduced if every one who produces will produce his utmost, if those who buy and consume will save and eliminate extravagance and if all honest people will join with the Department of Justice in stamping out profiteering and hoarding."

Explaining that a downward trend in retail food prices ordinarily was shown during the first two months of a year, Palmer said it was the hope of the government "that this trend will be accelerated this year by the campaign initiated by the government which is just now getting well under way."

Although statistics compiled by the government show that in previous years retail food prices increased during the fall months, Mr. Palmer said that since August this year such prices had been maintained practically stationary.

Only since October 22, when necessary amendments to the Lever food control act were passed the Attorney General's statement said, has it been possible to deal effectively with all cases of profiteering and hoarding. From October 22 to date, 179 prosecutions have been instituted, and 188 persons and seizures have been covered eighteen states, it was added.

Cut Clothing Prices.

Due to co-operation between the government and various retail merchants' associations, the statement said, prevailing profits of clothing had been reduced from 5 to 50 per cent.

The statement, which was issued with the authorization of the govern-

ment officials associated with the Attorney General in the campaign to force down living costs, including Director General of Railroads Hines, was considered in some quarters as a summary of the government's position in the face of the recently renewed demand of railroad workers for an increase in pay. The railroad crafts tactfully agreed in August with the suggestion of President Wilson to postpone their demands for increased pay for ninety days, to await efforts of the government to bring down prices.

"In August," the Attorney General's statement says in connection with demands for increased wages by railroad shopmen, based on the increased cost of living, the President announced to the public in view that the cost of living would be lowered as soon as there were settled conditions of production and of commerce, as soon as the treaty of peace was ratified and as soon as merchants, manufacturers, farmers and others had a certain basis of calculation.

More Production Needed.
In a statement to the shopmen themselves the President declared that the primary step was to increase production and facilitate transportation, so as to meet the demand for the reconstruction wrought by the war and the terrible scarcities it created. The President added that the government had taken up, with all possible vigor, the task of bringing the profiteer to book, making the stocks of necessities in the country available at lower prices, stimulating production and facilitating distribution.

"The movement inaugurated at that time to gain control over the cost of living has been largely in the hands of the Department of Justice. It should be helpful to point out what has already been accomplished and what further steps are in contemplation. To alleviate the situation, it is necessary to look meek and ascertain what the trend of wages has been in past years.

PORTO RICAN CHILD WELFARE NEGLECTED.

That the United States has not quite lived up to its duty as foster parent is brought out by the Seventh Annual Report of the Chief of the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor. This report states that very little is known of the children of our island possessions, and it urges that the needs of these children, who are legally under our protection, be made a subject for official investigation. This is urged especially for the children of Porto Rico and of the recently acquired Virgin Islands.

Such meager facts as are available indicate that the lot of children in these islands is not altogether a happy one. In Porto Rico, which has been for twenty years under our protection, there are according to the last report of the insular chief of police, "about 10,000 homeless children under 12 years of age who live by whatever means they are able, many of them begging or stealing, and most of them having no permanent lodging place, sleeping at night in boxes or on doorsteps, or where ever they happen to find a lodging place secure from the rain. These children are for the most part deserted and abandoned children of illegitimate parentage or orphan children whose parents have left no provision for their care and education, and they constitute a fertile soil for the implanting of criminal tendencies and are ready material for older people of criminal habits."

The baby that is born in Porto Rico has not nearly so good a chance of survival as he would have if he were lucky enough to be born in the States. In 1917, 18,173 babies died of every thousand born in Porto Rico died before they were a year old. Though this death rate (17.34) was lower than that for the preceding year, which reached almost 200, it is very high compared with the rate for the United States, which in the same year was 34, and with that for New Zealand which has a rate of 48 lower than that of any country in the world.

One of the great problems in Porto Rico is that of illiteracy. Though the illiteracy rate has dropped perceptibly since our acquisition of the island in 1898, more than one-fifth of the entire population over 10 years of age, and 82.1 per cent of the children between 10 and 14 could not read or write, it was necessary at the time of the census of 1910 to classify two-thirds of the entire population and half of the children between 10 and 14 as illiterate.

The Virgin Islands have so recently come into our possession that very little information is available concerning the children who live there. They, too, undoubtedly, have the handicap of illiteracy, though perhaps not in so great a degree as the children of Porto Rico. In 1917, when we acquired the islands, one-fourth of the population over 10 could not read or write. The latest available rate for the United States, the purchasing country, was 7.7 per cent, and that for Denmark, the selling country, was 0.2 per cent.

The census report of the Virgin Islands does not give the exact infant mortality rate, but states that the rate is very high. A contributing cause to this high rate probably is to be found in the fact that large numbers of the married women are gainfully employed.

It is plain from the facts in our possession, says the report, that the level of existence in the Virgin Islands is low. A study of the conditions surrounding mothers and children is suggested as a necessary preliminary to securing more satisfactory living conditions.

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Motor Transport Depot In France
Greatest Object Lesson in Waste

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Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—Automobile tires valued at \$35,000,000 were permitted to stand for more than twelve months exposed to sun, rain and snow at the great motor transport depot of the A. E. F. at Verneuil, France, and at the end of that time were practically worthless, according to the testimony of Captain R. M. Clendenning and other officers stationed at the Verneuil de-

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